(a) among the major challenges like Climate Change, Resources Depletion, Food insecurity, Population Growth, Economic instability that are seriously faced by this country, what is the area of priority in tackling all the above said challenges; and

(b) the resource allocation and the various measures for tackling the above said challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) The priorities of the Government are reflected in the Five Year Plan, which is placed before the Parliament after getting approval of National Development Council (NDC). The sector-wise allocations are made accordingly and are reviewed at the time of discussions in Annual Plan and Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Five Year Plan.

**Integrated Energy Policy**

†2385. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to formulate an Integrated Energy Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefit that the general public is going to have from this integrated policy; and

(d) Government's plans to keep the prices of petrol, diesel and natural gas under control and to what extent these plans have been successful in checking the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) An Integrated Energy Policy was approved by the Government in December 2008.

(b) The Integrated Energy Policy highlighted the issues of energy demand, its availability, pricing, research and development activities, efficiencies and security of supply. The Integrated Energy Policy was prepared on the basis of the recommendations made by Expert Committee constituted by the Government in August 2004. The Expert Committee submitted its Report in 2006.

(c) and (d) The approach of Integrated Energy Policy and the road map prepared for managing the energy requirements would help in maintaining the higher economic growth and increase per capita energy availability. Currently, the price of petroleum products like petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene is under Government control. To keep the prices under control, Government has provided subsidies, oil bonds and upstream discounts on petroleum products like diesel, petrol, LPG and kerosene to meet the under-recoveries of these products.

**Population of poor people**

†2386. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is big difference in the assessment of population of poor people in the country made by Planning Commission, N.C. Saxena Committee, Arjun Sen Gupta Committee, Suresh Tendulkar Committee and other State Governments;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the population of poor people in the country as stated by each of the above said source;

(d) whether Government has been able to reach on any unanimous conclusion in the context of above said opinions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (e) The Planning Commission as the nodal agency in the Government of India estimates the number and percentage of poor at National and State Level using methodology suggested by the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor. The estimates of poverty are made from the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) after an interval of five years approximately. The latest poverty estimates released for the year 2004-05 indicate that 27.5% people were living below the poverty line.

Dr. N.C. Saxena Committee was set up by the Ministry of Rural Development to recommend the methodology for conducting the BPL census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan to identify the BPL households in the rural areas who could be targeted under various programmes of that Ministry. This Committee was not given the mandate to estimate the population living below the poverty line in the country. However, the Committee expressed their views in the report that the percentage of people entitled to the BPL status should be revised upwards to 50%. The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector using the NSSO 61st round 2004-05 data of Employment-Unemployment Survey indicated that 77% of the population were living with a per capita consumption of up to Rs. 20 per day. But the Economic Survey 2008-09 has based upon the calculations on household consumption data for 2004-05 (NSSO 61st round) indicated that per capita consumption expenditure of 60.5% of population was less than Rs.20 per day.

The methodology for estimation of poverty in the country is reviewed from time to time. The terms of Reference of the Expert Group set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar, include to review alternative conceptualisations of Poverty and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and data base for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across states. The Expert Group has submitted its report to the Planning Commission only on 08.12.2009.